DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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BILLIONS FOR WEHRMACHT

The United States Government has pledged itself to supply the new West German Wehrmacht with "the newest and best weapons to the value of 40 thousand million marks" (nearly 10 thousand million dollars), Chancellor Adenauer told the West German Parliament on December 5th.

The Chancellor was speaking in the debate on the ratification of the Bonn Treaty, which would set up the new army, under old nazi generals. Fierce opposition to the treaty, both amongst the West German public and within the ranks of the coalition parties, forced Adenauer to postpone the third and final reading of the ratification law until January 1953.

(For more news of steps taken by Adenauer to force through the treaty, see "U. S. Troops Stand by" on page 3).

Adenauer made his revelation about the enormous proportions of the promised American support in answer to the charges that the cost of the new Wehrmacht would impoverish West Germany. The statement appeared in the shorthand report of his speech, but was entirely suppressed in the western press.

The Chancellor also revealed that after the ratification of the treaty West Germany would be in a position to manufacture "atom weapons, chemical weapons, bacteriological weapons, V-weapons, warships and military planes".

"The aim of our policy is to increase the forces at the disposal of the United States" he admitted, in the heat of debate. "We support the same plan as that supported by Herr Schumacher (deceased Social Democratic leader, ed.), the plan for an offensive defensive against the east."

Earlier in the debate Adenauer sang a hymn of praise for the nazi soldiers in World War Two. "We regard with respect all those who have borne weapons for our people, on land, water and in the air, as part of our great military tradition. We are convinced that the good name and the great achievements of German soldiers still live on amongst our people, despite all the attempts to besmirch this good name in the past few years."

Adenauer told Parliament that "the western powers were showing increasing understanding" for his government's efforts to obtain the release of war criminals. "On April 1st 1950 there were still 3649 such prisoners, and today the number has fallen to 953" he stated.

Consistent and logical opposition to the ratification of the Bonn Treaty came from the Chairman of the Communist Party, Max Reimann, who pointed out that the people of all countries in West Europe were opposed to the treaty.

"In West Germany 14 million men and women have voted against this war pact, despite all forms of police terror" he stated. "The people of Britain, France, West Germany, and the other states threatened with national eclipse by American imperialism, have no wish to be 'intergrated' in the stomach of the American wolf."

Herr Reimann's words were underlined by the big crowds of Germans, representing all sections of the population, who demonstrated in and outside the Parliament House in Bonn throughout the debate, and had to be dispersed by strong forces of police using fire hoses.

(From "Carrefour", Paris)

BIG NEW PRICE CUTS

Clothing for babies and older children was sharply cut in price in the German Democratic Republic in good time for Christmas.

The price cuts, which affected both private and state shops, went into effect on December 14th. The cuts ranged from 45 percent in the case of cotton baby-clothes to 15 percent for children's dresses and coats.

CHURCHES IN E. GERMANY

A newly constructed Catholic Church at Wahren, on the outskirts of Leipzig, in East Germany, was dedicated at the end of November by Heinrich Wienken, Catholic Bishop of Meissen.

The new church will serve both as cloister church for the Dominican Abbey to which it is attached, and as parish church. The church was built from the proceeds of collections taken in Catholic communities throughout the German Democratic Republic, and with the help of a considerable subsidy from the Government .

On the same day the reconstructed Protestant "Merchants' Church" in Erfurt was being rededicated by the Evangelical Canon Verwiebe.

The "Merchants' Church", which dates from the end of the 13th Century, was burned out in the course of an allied bombing raid during the war.

"WE WILL OVERCOME SUPPLY DIFFICULTIES"

By Otto Grotewohl, Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic

The enemies of the German Democratic Republic, the newspapers and radio stations of the American and West German warmongers, have chattered for the past few weeks about a "breakdown of supplies", and about "catastrophic difficulties" in the German Democratic Republic. They attempt to blame the building of Socialism for these difficulties.

What is the real position in the supply of such goods as butter, fat, potatoes, vegetables and meat? First of all we must make it plain that the standard of living of our people is constantly rising as a result of the increase in production. This is not only shown by statistics; every worker can see for himself the improvement.

Consumption up

The average consumption of fish, fats, and sugar of a citizen of the German Democratic Republic is higher than in West Germany, and consumption of meat in East and West Germany is at about the same level.

Despite this, however, there are some temporary difficulties in some fields of food-stuff supply. Let us take the question of butter, for instance. Our own butter production is not high enough, and was never high enough in the past, to cover our own requirements. In order to ensure supplies of butter in the last few months of the year, we had concluded, in good time, trade agreements with capitalist countries.

West Cuts Butter

Most of these capitalist countries have now informed us finally that they cannot fulfil these agreements, and give as their reason the fact that the drought of last summer has caused a great butter shortage in the capitalist market. It is easy to understand that the capitalist countries, which have not enough butter for themselves, are only too ready to let the German Democratic Republic do without.

To make up for this shortage, 5000 tons of butter from the state reserves have been released, and special steps have been taken to speed up meat deliveries from the countryside, so that the butter shortage will be compensated for by more animal fats and meat.

What is the position with regard to margarine? In the first nine months of 1952 the population was supplied with two and half times as much margarine through the state trading organisation as in the whole of 1951. This was a faulty disposition, which of necessity led to shortages towards the end of the year.

On Cabinet order the Central State Control Commission has made a special investigation of the Ministry for Trade and Supply, and Minister Karl Hamann und State Secretary Albrecht were relieved of their duties. The sabotage committed by the Department Chief Hantke, who has fled to the west, was not confined to allowing great quantities of margarine to go bad. In addition he disorganised the entire annual plan for margarine supplies. This agent is now boasting about the results of his destructive work, in broadcasts from western radio stations.

Special measures have been taken to overcome these temporary difficulties, and margarine production has been stepped up, but it will naturally last some weeks until all the difficulties in margarine supply have been banished.

Plenty of Sugar

What is the truth about the sugar situation? There is no shortage of sugar. Difficulties in sugar supply have arisen from the fact that sugar is one of the favourite goods for hoarders and speculators. The entire population must help to stop the work of these hoarders, and the government has done its part by seeing to it that West Berlin speculators are forbidden from buying sugar in the Democratic Sector of Berlin. The fact that it was time to stop their hostile activity is proved by the statistics which show that fourteen times as much sugar were purchased, per head, in the Democratic Sector as in Leipzig.

What is the potato position? Every citizen of the German Democratic Republic can eat as many potatoes as he wishes.

We naturally had difficulties as the result of the continuous rain during harvest time, followed by a sudden frost. However, our enemies rejoiced too soon. Reports from all parts show that despite the unfavourable weather, the potato harvest in the German Democratic Republic is, on an average, as large as it was last year.

The position with regard to vegetables is that, as in many other countries, the weather this year was bad for vegetables. There are bound to be some difficulties in the supply of vegetables from time to time. The government is taking steps to see to it that next year the crop plan for vegetables is extended, and strictly carried out.

There are no limitations on the supply of meat and sausages, and every citizen will be able to pick out just the Cristmas joint which he wants.

That is the real position, which gives no ground for western hate propaganda. We can, and we will, overcome all temporary difficulties, since the people and the government work together to overcome these difficulties. Our enemies exploit every difficulty which we encounter, in an attempt to frighten the working people away from the task of building Socialism. They want to persuade the people that things "don't work" without the help of American and West German millionaires and Junkers.

But we have got along so far very nicely without these gentry, and we shall continue to do so. In the coming year the wages of further sections of the workers and white-collar workers, and the salaries of teachers, will be increased. The plan for 1953 forsees a further increase in the production of industrial and agricultural goods. That is the true position, these are the true facts, which expose the lying allegations of our enemies.

Democratic GERMAN REPORT

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West Commandants Claim "Free Movement" for Smugglers

The American, British and French Commandants in West Berlin sent a protest note to the Soviet representative in East Berlin in the first week of December. The protest note stated in part: "These unjustified and arbitrary acts of the Soviet sector police constitute a serious curtailment of the customary and well-established right of free movement throughout the four sectors of the city of Berlin. I ask you to take steps to prevent such arbitrary acts..."

What were these "arbitrary acts?" The people's Police made a sudden check on West Berlin motor vehicles encountered in the Democratic Sector of Berlin. Here are some of the things which they discovered:

Van with licence number KB 049-570: large quantities of soap and candles being smuggled into West Berlin. The driver was in possession of several thousand marks.

Two five-ton trucks, loaded with building materials, apparently stolen, which were being smuggled to West Berlin.

Truck loaded with one hundredweight of frankfurters and several hundredweight of meat being smuggled.

Small van driven by West Berliner Kurt Brunke, who confessed that he was a member of a smuggling ring dealing mainly in smuggled gasoline.

At the same time as they made their swoop on the smugglers, the People's Police released details of other examples of the West Berlin idea of "free movement", which was so stoutly defended by the western commandants.

From January until November, a total of twelve police and passers-by had been injured, some seriously, by vehicles which failed to stop when signalled to do so by police patrols and traffic cops. Many of the vehicles, mainly trucks, had been loaded with stolen goods, particularly scrap metal and wood, which was being smuggled into West Berlin.

The People's Police announced that all West Berlin cars were free to enter and leave the Democratic Sector of Berlin, in future as in the past, but that the drivers and occupants must naturally obeyed the laws and regulations in force here.

Old Age Pensioners Get Free Licence

Old age pensioners in the German Democratic Republic will not have to pay a radio licence fee in future, a special pre-Christmas announcement stated. The same ruling also applies to the blind.

U. S. TROOPS STAND BY

Adenauer Bulldozes President

U. S. troops in West Germany stood by on December 9th and 10th to support Chancellor Adenauer in his all-in struggle to force the Bonn Treaty on the people, reports from Bonn disclosed. The troops were rushed to strategic points, ready to establish military law if necessary.

The use of troops was only one of the pressure methods used by Chancellor Adenauer. Here is a condensed summary of the main developments of the past two weeks in the struggle for and against the treaty, which would re-establish a West German Wehrmacht.

December 5th. Second Reading of the Bonn Treaty in the West German Parliament. Chancellor Adenauer, forced to postpone the third reading by the pressure of public opinion, announced that it would be held in January 1953, after Constitutional Court had given ruling on the constitutionality of the treaty.

December 9th. Constitutional Court considered application made by West German President Heuss for legal opinion on the treaty, and decided that Court's ruling would not only be legal opinion but would be legally binding.

On the same day Adenauer learned from judges acting in his interests that the court would probably decide against him. Adenauer immediately requested the American command for military support in case of need, and ordered a special squad of frontier guards to "protect" the palace of West German President Heuss.

December 10th. Adenauer made a series of visits to President Heuss, and by means of undisclosed threats forced him to withdraw his application to the Constitutional Court.

December 11th. Adenauer held a meeting with his closest collaborators and discussed methods of "taking legal steps to limit the rights of the Constitutional Court" as the French news agency A. F. P. reported.

PISTOL PACKING PARCELS

By the Editor

In the last number of GERMAN REPORT we warned readers to expect some sort of propaganda attack on East Germany timed to coincide with the Christmas season.

As this number of our paper was going to press the story broke. West Berlin newspapers, and presumably the millionaire press in the western world, splashed stories that the East German authorities had confiscated all Christmas parcels sent from West Germany and abroad to the German Democratic Republic.

What had really happened? West German sabotage groups had taken the opportunity offered by the rush of parcels at Christmas to send pistols, explosives, incendiary materials and vicious racialist pamphlets to their agents in East Germany, hoping that they would remain undetected in the flood of packages filled with cakes, chocolate and warm scarves for Uncle Heinz.

The editor of GERMAN REPORT has inspected several of the parcels which had been intercepted. One contained a can of A & B Pure Lard, several cans of meat, and, neatly wrapped in Christmas wrapping paper printed with sprigs of fir, an automatic pistol. Another package contained nothing but a harmless looking can of milk. When opened, however, the can was found to contain revolver ammunition.

And these were only two of dozens of similar packages particularly unsuitable for the feast of Goodwill. Under the circumstances, naturally, the East German authorities have been forced to take rigorous steps to inspect the parcel mail, and there may be some delay in deliveries.

But there is no question of "confiscation" as the western press alleges. Every parcel and package which is really a conveyor of peace and goodwill will reach its destination.

Sabotage Through Forged Letters

Saboteurs attempted to disorganise the work of tractor stations in all parts of East Germany early in December by sending them forged letters telling them to use up their diesel fuel rations in the first ten days of the month, and promising them extra rations later. The swindle was quickly exposed, and little damage was done.

"Nazi Army in West Germany since 1945"

EAST GERMANY ANSWERS BRITISH CHARGES ON PEOPLE'S POLICE

Official British statements show that military and semi-military formations, composed of former nazi soldiers, have existed in West Germany since 1945, the Information Office of the German Democratic Republic announced in an important statement issued on December 7th.

The statement was a reply to charges made by the British Foreign Office on December 2nd about the alleged creation of an army in East Germany.

"In this declaration lying statements were made about the People's Police, a force which was created to protect the internal order and security of the German Democratic Republic", the East Germany announcement said.

"The British Foreign Office turned well known facts inside-out, and claimed that steps had been taken in the German Democratic Republic to build an army as long ago as 1948 'before the West had even considered the question of West German contribution to western defence'.

"The declaration further stated that the decision of the western powers in September 1950 to remilitarise West Germany was only a 'counter-measure'. With the help of this incorrect statement the Foreign Office attempts to justify the integration of the Bonn Separatist State in the American-British preparations for a new war of aggression, and attempts to help Adenauer to get the Bonn Treaty ratified.

"The Information Office is empowered to declare that the statement issued by the British Foreign Office, referred to above, is a lie from beginning to end.

"The warmongers in the British Foreign Minister are attempting to camouflage the remilitarisation of West Germany, which has been carried out by the the American, British and French occupation powers for years.

"As early as December 1945 the British representatives in the Control Council were forced to admit that military units of the Hitlerite Army had been preserved in West Germany under the cloak of Labour Groups, Service Units etc.

"At the beginning of 1947 the British Command confirmed, in the report of the Control Council to the Foreign Ministers Council of the Four Great Powers, that in the British Zone alone 81,358 German soldiers and officers were serving in such units.

"In the eastern part of Germany the clauses of the Potsdam Agreement dealing with German demilitarisation were consistently observed, but the three western powers took no measures to demilitarise West Germany or to remove military installations.

"On the contrary they have constructed new military installations, at the cost of the West German population. West German peasants have been chased from their fields, fertile ground has been converted into airfields. The western occupation powers have made all preparations to blow up bridges, streets and dams, converting West Germany into a waste of water and exposing the peaceful population to extermination.

"The expansion of military formations, and the establishment of new formations went ahead with such speed that figures published in October 1950 showed that such formations reached a strength of 456,000 men, mainly former officers and soldiers of the Hitlerite Wehrmacht. These formations were equipped with tanks and artillery.

"The British Foreign Office can not be unaware that these West German military formations took public part in the manouevres of the western occupation powers as early as the year 1949.

"In September 1950 the Foreign Ministers of the United States, Britain and France agreed at their separate conference in New York, that 'mobile police units' should be raised in West Germany, in addition to the police troops already in existence. At the same time the western powers officially decided upon the integration of West German troops in the aggressive North Atlantic Block.

"The aggressive policy pursued by the governments of Britain, the United States and France reached its high point in the Bonn War Treaty and the Paris Military Treaty, which it is intended to impose upon West Germany. These so-called treaties aim to speed-up the formation of West German mercenary troops under American command.

"These West German troops will not be German National Forces, which the German people demand to protect their frontiers of peace, but mercenary troops at the service of the American and British war makers. They are intended to wage war in imperialist interests against peaceable people in all parts of the world, and in particular to wage a civil war of German against German.

"These facts show the level to which the British policy vis-a-vis Germany has sunk. The British Foreign Office uses both lies and slanders in an attempt to confuse public opinion, and to justify the aggressive acts of the western powers."

Former Nazis Start to take over Bonn Coalition Party

Prominent former nazis are making moves to "capture" the Free Democratic Party, one of the parties in Adenauer's coalition government, reports from Bonn indicate. Political observers thought that this move might be potentially more dangerous to peace than the more sensational activities of nazi rowdies and such former generals as Ramcke and Remer, since the nazis involved were more adaptable, and used the current jargon of "European integration" rather than outmoded Hitlerite slogans.

Among the men involved in this movement are Hans Fritsche, former nazi radio commentator, who is now a lipstick manufacturer in the Rhineland; Werner Best, war criminal and nazi war-time boss in Denmark; Dr Ernst Achenbach, who was on the Hitlerite staff in occupied Paris, and "Putzi" Hanfstaengel, an early friend of Hitler who later fell into disfavour.

Peace Group Threat

The West German "Office for the Protection of the Constitution", Adenauer's Gestapo, is preparing to take action against the "Polish-German Friendship Society" on the grounds that this society is a "treasonable association", West German newspapers reported.

The executive of the Society appealed to the West German population to resist this attempt, pointing out that its aims were to ensure that there would never again be war between Germany and Poland. "Is it treasonable to work for peace?" the statement asked.

The Bonn Waxworks

By Maximilian Scheer

Walk up, walk up, ladies and gents! See the most astonishing waxworks of modern times. Every figure in the Bonn Government Waxworks wears a lounge suit like a man; every figure eats and drinks just like a man; but none of the figures have any character: the waxworks manager gives his guarantee for this.

Here, right in the entrance, you see an old man with a dried-up cunning face. He is the most important doll in the whole show — he looks after the cash box. This is Fritz Schaeffer, the Minister of Finance.

His speciality is to stretch his long fingers into the pockets of the people, and to extract what he finds there. Then he uses it, not for the people, but against them, in order to rearm West Germany.

"Gigantic Task"

When you look at the puppet Schaeffer, you could not be expected to know, ladies and gents, that the newspaper "Regensburger Anzeiger" published an article on May 4th 1933 containing this sentence:

> "The task facing Adolf Hitler, as the man who will renew the Reich, is so enormous, and its final result is still so uncertain, that it is necessary to awaken and mobilise all forces who want the Chancellor, for the sake of Germany, to succeed in his gigantic task. Nothing would be more foolish than to speculate on the failure of this mission."

You have already guessed, ladies and gentlemen, that the man who wrote this article was the same Schaeffer who is now in the Bonn waxworks. He thinks and speaks the same phrases today: "gigantic tasks"... "for the sake of Germany."

First Premier

After the war, the Americans in Munich asked Cardinal Faulhaber to propose a man to become first Prime Minister of Bavaria, and the Cardinal proposed Fritz Schaeffer. He did not last long in this post. He got on so well with the old nazis that the people complained more and more loudly. At that time there were still a number of Americans in Germany who dated from the Roosevelt era, and who would certainly be accused of "un-American activities" if they did today what they did then. These Americans wrote an official letter to the Christian Social Union, Schaeffer's party, stating:

"Investigations by the competent authorities of the Military Government have shown that Fritz Schaeffer, throughout his entire political career, has been a representative of ultranationalist and militarist ideas, ideas which in the end led to nazism and war."

"As a result of these investigations, it is clear that Fritz Schaeffer is unsuited for the post of adviser or official of a political party, or as an elector, or candidate for public office or any post of importance."

Boy Scouts?

The newly formed West German youth group "Adler" (Eagle) aims to be an organisation "adopting the best principles of both the Hitler Youth and the Boy Scout Movement" stated Richard Etzel, President of the organisation, at a meeting in Bamberg, American Zone. "Hitler's vision of fine German youth, 'tough as leather, hard as Krupp steel, swift as greyhounds' is our ideal" he stated.

Schaeffer was relieved of his office, and it might have been expected that he would be politically dead. Only two years later he was washed clean, however, and in September 1949 he was the logical figure to become Minister of Finance in the Adenauer Cabinet Waxworks.

Pudgy Minister

Ladies and gents! Look at this exhibit very carefully. He is typical. Now look at the next figure: Thomas Dehler.

He is the Minister of Justice of the Waxworks. Look at his face. It is a pudgy face, with little eyes hidden behind glasses in little holes in the fat. He has to be careful of his eyes, for he easily sees red.

This figure describes strike action by the workers against the bosses as "high treason", and calls co-determination for workers in the factories "idiotic dreams" and "attempts by the shop stewards to take over the factories". He once uttered the charming sentence: "It is very nice that the Pope has also expressed his opposition to this idea."

Dehler's speciality is juggling with laws and regulations. Now you see them, now you don't! The aim is always the same: to jail the supporters of peace, and to leave the neo-nazis at liberty.

When he was State Prosecutor in Bamberg in 1948, a nazi Storm Trooper was brought before the court. The clearest evidence was given that the Storm Trooper, Johann Lager, had shot the Communist Town Councillor Margarete Messing from a distance of a few paces in 1933. The court sentenced the murderer to only 21 months jail. When a Social Democratic journalist described this sentence as a miscarriage of justice, Thomas Dehler charged the journalist with contempt of court, and he was sent to prison.

In the question of rearmament, Dehler, now Adenauer's Minister of Justice, is one of the loudest supporters, and was the first person in West Germany to call publicly for a Wehrmacht 30 divisions strong. He saw to it that a West German journalist was heavily fined because the journalist charged that Dehler was in favour of armaments because "then his bosses in the background would earn more".

It is clear that Dehler has earned a fine place in the Bonn Waxworks when we remember that in 1950 he had a relaps into Hitlerism, and publicly spoke of "the legend of German aggression".

Minor Figures

Now, ladies and gentlemen, here are some of the minor figures. For instance Dr. Karl Wilde, Adenauer's personal secretary. He studied in Cambridge and Paris, and plays the role of a sort of master of ceremonies for Anglo-American and for French use. Adenauer values greatly the fact that Wilde was a leading official throughout the war in Hitler's Ministry of Economics. He is just continuing today where he left off in 1945.

Here is a colleague of Dr Wilde's — State Secretary Sauerborn, from the Ministry of Labour. During the whole Hitler period Herr Sauerborn was in the employ of Hitler's drunken Labour Minister, Robert Ley. Sauerborn has not changed his convictions, only his chief.

Quisling Paymaster

And next to him, ladies and gents, stands another Secretary of State, this time Franz Thedieck, from the Ministry for All-German Questions. During the war he was one of the leading officials of the Hitler's mili-

(continued at bottom of p. 6)

Soviet Soldiers Save German Factory

by Henni Tuerk

Young Soviet soldiers sunned themselves in the weak rays of the autumn sun, and dangled their fishing lines into the Sunday peace of the River Spree at Fuerstenwalde, east of Berlin, one day in September 1952.

Across the river they could see the long factory buildings of the nationally-owned Fuerstenwalde Tyre Works, in which thousands of freshly-made tyres were stacked in gleaming black piles.

Suddenly one of the young soldiers pointed excitedly across the river. "Fire in the factory" he shouted. There was no bridge near, but it was clear that something must be done. One after another the soldiers dropped their fishing lines and sprang into the river. Arriving at the other side they made a dash for the warehouse over which an ominous black colmun of smoke was growing.

There they met other Soviet soldiers from the nearby barracks, who had also hurried to the scene with their fire engine. The factory watchmen were already at work, trying to beat back the flames, and their Soviet colleagues immediately began to help. Breaking open the door of the flaming warehouse they doubled inside, into the inferno of stinking smoke, dragging out machines, documents, and tyres which had not yet caught fire. They saved what could be saved, and remembered at the same time to place a guard over the salvaged goods so that they could not be stolen.

As they worked, they cursed at the saboteurs who had laid the fire. From the history of the Soviet Union they knew that fires were a favourite weapon of saboteurs who wanted to prevent the building of Socialism. They knew too that this fire had not been caused through a carelessly-dropped cigarette end, since rubber only burns when it is exposed to a heat of nearly 600 degrees Fahrenheit.

The Soviet officer who had taken charge of the fire fighting team ordered a wall of water to be laid down between the burning warehouse and the neighbouring buildings, and was thus able to prevent the fire spreading and putting the whole factory out of commission.

Soon the workers in the factory, most of whom had been at a big factory sports meeting, began to arrive to help to fight the flames. One of them, Frau Drewning, a typist, told me of the scene which met them when they arrived.

"Flames were shooting 20 and 30 yards into the air" she said. "The Soviet soldiers who were fighting the fire refused to leave even though their shoes were smoking under their feet, and their uniforms were smouldering. I was not the only witness who was moved to tears of thankfulness."

Altogether a total of 19 of the Soviet soldiers had to be taken to hospital suffering from burns and from bones broken when burning walls collapsed.

"We all looked at our factory with new eyes the next day" said worker Elfi Schulz. "The fact that these Soviet soldiers had found it a natural duty to save our Socialist factory showed all of us that it was up to us to protect our factory."

There were very concrete results. Eight work brigades joined the German-Soviet Friendship Society en masse, thirty workers decided to make special contributions to the National Reconstruction Programme, 33 workers volunteered for special voluntary work to help the Peasant Production Cooperative nearby, and almost all the workers in the factory showed their appreciation in some such way.

When a factory delegation called upon the Soviet Commandant to extend thanks, he declared that his officers and soldiers had only done their duty. The best form of thanks would be if the workers would be more vigilant in guarding their own factory, and if they improved their work for the good of all, the Soviet Commandant declared.

(Condensed from the "Berliner Zeitung")

The Bonn Waxworks

(continued from p. 5)

tary government in Brussels, Belgium. Then he was the paymaster for those Belgians who betrayed their country; today he pays traitors, who call themselves Germans, who work against the German Democratic Republic.

And if you look carefully at all these figures, ladies and gents, you can see the fine threads leading up to the ceiling. Now glance up, and you will see the men who control all the puppets. They call themselves High Commissioners, and are just talking over the next number with the old-new German industrialists. They only have to push a button, and the waxworks go into action.

You are right, it is a spectral show. It could be a dangerous show if an end were not put to it. It is scarcely understandable to a normal person that in the middle of the twentieth century ghosts should rise from their graves, and begin to dig new graves for others.

But powerful hands will soon grasp a big brush, and sweep the whole spectral waxworks away where it belongs — to the bed of the Rhine.

(Condensed from "Taegliche Rundschau", Berlin)

U. S. Issues Bacteriological Warfare Handbook "Proofs That Our System Functions"

Bacteriological warfare has already been tried out on an experimental scale, according to an official memorandum on the subject prepared by the American High Commission in West Germany for the guidance of the West Germany "Federal Air Raid Precautions Association".

The document, issued in German in duplicated form, 18 pages long, does not directly mention the use of germ warfare in Korea, but states cynically:

"In order to kill a large number of people it is necessary to have recourse to epidemics like typhus, cholera, small pox and other such diseases. There are proofs that our system functions."

The memorandum then goes into details of the latest results of research in the use of bacteriological warfare against human beings, animals, and crops.

Patriot Sentenced

An American military court in Regensburg has sent Walter Zauner, a member of the Free German Youth, to prison for 4 years. His "crime" was to cement up a demolition chamber prepared by American Army engineers in a West German railway bridge.

Readers' Letters

"I am weary of reading nasty accusations and counteraccusations, specially if they are clothed in the language of contempt and scorn. Let us begin with some concrete acts of good-will, that we may come to an understanding and finally to cooperation.

"If your policy is only to picture us black and yourselves white, kindly do not send me your paper any more.

"Please publish this letter."

Adele Wehmeyer
Clinton Corners
New York U.S.A.

(Some reader may find GERMAN REPORT seems one-sided to them, but the explanation is not far to seek. Every day, morning, noon and night they are exposed to constant blasts of radio, television and press propaganda, which affects them whether they believe what it says or not. Then, once every fourteen days, come the eight small pages of GERMAN REPORT, which says something quite different about the German problem and the danger of war.

Of course we are one-sided, in a certain sense. We make no propaganda for war, we do not attempt to conceal or deny the danger of a new nazi army in West Germany.

Incidentally, Mrs Wehmeyer asks us not to send her GERMAN REPORT anymore because of its lack of balance. To be logical, in her ivory tower, we expect that she has cancelled her subscriptions to the "New York Times" and other millionaire papers, that she has burned her T. V. set and given away her radio. It would be a good idea for her to stop listening to her neighbours. They may be one-sided too.)

TWO AMERICANS CHOOSE PEACE

George Smith's "Declaration of Independence"

(On December 5th the newspapers of the German Democratic Republic announced that another United States citizen had sought asylum in East Germany. Here is part of his application for the right to live and work here, in his own words.)

I, George Smith, being of sound mind, do hereby repudiate all claims the United States Government, as it is today, has on me as to my citizenship, moral obligations and usage in their military adventures against the people of the world.

I make this declaration of independence after much thought and deliberation within myself and wholly by myself with no pressure against me from outside influences, except the war-like policy of the United States Government against the peace-loving peoples of the world. It is this conviction and this alone which has influenced my decision to give up my United States citizenship . . .

In America, all a young man has to look forward to now in the future, is war and death. I could not speak any more about my political convictions or even peace without fear of arrest and losing my job. On ships and in my leisure moments ashore I used to talk with fellow workers and try to show them where capitalism was failing for the working people. But now the capitalist press, radio, television and motion pictures have done so well in fomenting hatred for even the word "Communist" that I gave up speaking for fear of reprisals against my family.

My reasons for leaving the country of my birth are many; they had to be important as it also means leaving all my friends and family. Perhaps the most important is the preparation for war going on there now . . .

I read my progressive papers and learned many things that were being done in the United States toward a war against the countries which have taken the road to Socialism.

As I could not and would not serve world imperialism against the working class of the world, I could either rot in jail or come to the free half of the world where I can work and fight for what I believe in.

(Another American citizen, Philip Morand, who has been living in the German Democratic Republic for a considerable period, has published a statement of thanks addressed to all those who have helped him here. Here is his message.)

Ever since my coming to live in the German Democratic Republic my life has been one of complete happiness, and I desire to take this occasion of thanking all of you for the every consideration which has been shown me.

My latest reason for being grateful to the German Democratic Republic is the assistance I received upon getting married. My wife and I are now living in our new home, practically everything of which you supplied us to make our married life one of happiness.

The thing that amazes me is ever since I have made this my home at no time have I ever been bothered and at all times have been allowed to come and go as I please, which is contrary to the malicious propaganda spread by the imperialist countries.

Another thing which is very noticeable, and by far the most important of all matters, is the undying fight for peace. No matter where I go, to work, theatre, parks, clubs, everyone with whom I have come in contact wants peace, and is making an effort to demand that peace, so as to avert a catastrophe upon the human race.

All in all, it gives me great pride to say that my home is in the German Democratic Republic, where I too, along with all my friends, will help to keep the peace.

In ending on behalf of my wife and myself, a million thanks for all your efforts in making us very happy.

Always your friend,
Philip Morand

38,000 West Germans seek refuge in East Germany

A total of 38,832 West Germans moved into the German Democratic Republic during 1951 and the first six month of 1952, it was announced in Berlin. The total figure included 15,511 workers, 4739 white collar workers and intellectuals and large numbers of students, craftsmen and peasants.

The majority of the refugees stated that they had left West Germany because of unemployment, the difficulty of making a livelihood there, and the wish to escape recruitment to the French Foreign Legion or the West German mercenary troops.

No fewer than 12,379 of the refugees were of draft age (between 19 and 25) and 9161 more were between 26 and 40.

Every single one of the refugees has received work in his or her trade. This is in startling contrast to the position of ill-advised persons who "flee to the west" often as a result of propaganda from British and American radio stations. With very few exceptions such persons are given the choice of vegetating in refugee camps, or of joining a semi-military unit such as the American "Industrial Police".

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Although many readers in far-off spots like Vietnam and Ethiopia will not get this copy of GERMAN REPORT until the Christmas season is a thing of the past, I must devote a few lines to the seasonal developments here.

I have just got back from a look at the traditional Christmas fair, held this year on bomb-sites round the Alexander Platz, central square of East Berlin. The fair is crammed with all the things that you expect at a fair: round-abouts, hot-dog stands, buskers selling whistles guaranteed to make noises like a canary, and all the rest of it. There are two Santa Clauses with whom children may be photographed, a man snipping two-minute silhouettes with a pair of scissors, and a fascinating machine which spins sugar into pale pink bundles of woolly fluff.

No Fat Lady

Some of the more unappetising fair side-shows are missing however, I was glad to see. There was no bearded lady or dwarf, for instance. Instead, the big attraction is the glass-blowers, two craftsmen from Thuringia who sit at their work benches making fantastic glass animals and complicated balls to hang on Christmas trees, under the fascinated gaze of hundreds of children and grown-ups. It was certainly one of the most enthralling exhibitions I have seen for a long time, and I could scarcely drag myself away in order to go back to the office to write these lines.

And when I got back, I found a letter from England awaiting me, enclosing a cutting from the London "News Chronicle" of December 8th, with the headline "Soviet Zone is short of food". The writer tried to make his readers' blood curdle with stories of starvation in East Germany.

As I read it, I still had in my nostrils the smells of the Christmas fair: whole chickens roasting on the spit, potato pancakes smoking on the griddle, waffles, doughnuts, huge piles of ginger-bread hearts, and all the more everyday food on sale. These things were all on free sale, and they were being bought in great quantities, not only in Berlin but in half a dozen other towns in various parts of the Republic which I have visited in the past week.

On another page of this issue you can read the official account by Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl of the food position in the German Democratic Republic. There have been shortages of one or two goods, but not the ghost of a rumour of a suggestion of a real hardship, let alone anything which could be called starvation.

"RING OUT THE OLD, RING IN THE NEW"

In December 1952 the following notice was still displayed, under cellophane, in the public telephone cell 250015 in Hamburg, British Zone: "Achtung! Jews who are obliged by law to wear the star of David are forbidden to use this telephone."

The "Evening Times" in Glasgow, Scotland, published on November 25th a fine sensational article under the title "Red For Danger in Germany". The contents of the article were the usual re-hash of lies and half-truth, but what was interesting was the name of the author, Bernard Newman.

Mr Newman is a man who has made a career out of claiming to have been a spy. In one of his books, if I remember rightly, he claims to have served on the German General Staff in World War One, and to have spied for Britain at the same time.

Spy's Yarn

Mr Newman starts off his latest article with the words:

"Three years ago I visited the Russian Zone of Germany. In one town I saw . . . ." and he then goes on to spin his yarn.

Now I have gone to the trouble of checking up. Mr Newman has never, since 1945, been issued with a visa or permit to visit eastern Germany. This leaves only two possible conclusions. Either Mr Newman visited East Germany illegally, in his capacity as a spy, or he did not visit East Germany and the rest of his article is just as much an invention as his opening sentence.

And if Mr Newman did travel here as a spy, this is only one more very good reason for the sharp security measures which were taken by the East German authorities along the frontier this summer, and which at the time raised such loud cries of "iron curtain" in the millionaire press in the western countries.

A copy of this issue of GERMAN REPORT is being sent to Bernard Newman, and I shall await his reply with great interest.

Lies Exposed

This is the last number of GERMAN REPORT to appear in 1952, and the closing number of Volume 1. I have taken the opportunity of glancing back through the "Berlin Notebooks" which I have written during the year.

A major part of the space seems to have been devoted to exposing and answering the lies about Germany, particularly East Germany, which are so frequent in the millionaire press. At a rough calculation 40 assorted lies and misstatements have been exposed in the Notebook and various other parts of the paper during the year.

In most cases the corrections have been supported by facts and figures. In very many cases the persons who made the original mis-statement have been challenged to support their allegations if they could, and offered space in GERMAN REPORT to present their answer.

In no case has this challenge been taken up. Readers can draw their own conclusions.

No, it is not quite correct to say "in no case". Mr. Norman Bentwich, British publicist, whom I criticised on October 10th for his incorrect reporting on East Berlin, did write to me about it. Unfortunately no-one in this office was able to read his writing, so we were unable to determine what he said. A few lines were decipherable in which he promised to come and visit us next time he was in Berlin, so we may find out then.

Crack of the Week

The American Resident Officer of a little town in the U. S. Zone of Germany had died, and a quisling town official went round to collect for a wreath.

"Can you contribute a mark for the burial of the American Resident Officer?" he asked the shoemaker.

"Here are five marks. Bury four more."

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